

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 182965 TOSEC 080291

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PORS, AO

SUBJECT:BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - ANGOLA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ACTING ASST.SECY.MULCAHY

1. POLITICAL: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES SAID AUGUST 1 THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA CARDOSO WILL BE REPLACED SOON "FOR REASONS OF HEALTH" BY GENERAL SACRAMENTO MARQUES, MEMBER OF GOP'S DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION. TOP-LEVEL PORTUGUESE MISSION HEADED BY ARMY CINC FABIAO AND INCLUDING FORMER ANGOLAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ROSA COUTINHO ARRIVED IN LUANDA AUGUST 1. EMBASSY LISBON COMMENTS THAT ARRIVAL OF LEFT-LEANING COUTINHO AND DEPARTURE OF CARDOSO HAS GENERATED SPECULATION THAT GOP HAS DECIDED TO EITHER FAVOR MPLA OR TURN POWER OVER TO MPLA.

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS V. SIDENKO, WRITING IN NOVOYE VREMYA, ACCUSED CIA OF BACKING OPPOSITION TO MPLA, CHARGING SPECIFICALLY THAT CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALTERS HAS VISITED ANGOLA POSING AS BUSINESSMAN. EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT GENERAL ANTI-U.S. TONE OF ARTICLE PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY AT TIME WHEN SUCH BLATANT DIATRIBES HAVE ALL BUT VANISHED FROM SOVIET PRESS.

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2. MILITARY: SITUATION IN AND AROUND LUANDA REMAINS

STATIC AND RELATIVELY QUIET. HOLDEN ROBERTO IS REPORTED BY OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY JULY 30 TO HAVE TOLD AN AFP REPORTER AT AMBRIZ, ANGOLA (NORTH OF ANGOLA), THAT TIME HAS COME FOR A NEW ATTACK, PRESUMABLY ON LUANDA. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT FNLA FORCES HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE TOWARD LUANDA FROM CAXITO. HOWEVER, ROBERTO HAD REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT HE WOULD NOT RESIST AN FNLA ADVANCE TO LUANDA.

MILITARY SITUATION ELSEWHERE BASICALLY UNCHANGED, ALTHOUGH FIREFIGHTS APPEAR TO BE FLARING UP IN MOST OF MPLA'S ETHNIC AREA EAST FROM LUANDA TO MALANGE AND SOUTH TO LOBITO. SOME FIGHTING ALSO REPORTED AT LUSO, IN CENTRAL ANGOLA, WHERE FNLA AND UNITA REPORTEDLY JOINED TO REPULSE AN EARLIER MPLA ATTACK ON JULY 24.

OF MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM CABINDA GULF MANAGER THAT FNLA PLANS AN EARLY ATTACK ON CABINDA CITY, WHICH IS SOME 11 MILES FROM GULF INSTALLATIONS.

3. EVACUATION: FRENCH EVACUATION AIRCRAFT JULY 31 TOOK OUT ABOUT 150 PERSONS, MOSTLY EUROPEAN, AND INCLUDING TWO AMCITS AND AUSTRIAN CONSUL. FIVE OTHER AMCITS LEFT ON TEXACO WORKBOAT JULY 30. BRITISH AND AUSTRIAN CONSULATE NOW CLOSED. REMAINING OPEN ARE ITALY, FRANCE, FRG, BRAZIL, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, NETHERLANDS, SOUTH AFRICA AND U. S.

JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA) STAR REPORTS PORTUGAL TO BEGIN TWO-MONTH AIRLIFT AUGUST 4 TO EVACUATE 200,000 PORTUGUESE FROM ANGOLA. WHILE THIS REPORT NOT RPT NOT CONFIRMED, AN EARLIER REPORT STATED PORTUGUESE AIRLINE TAP HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVACUATION OF 10,000 PERSONS FROM NOVA LISBOA IN CENTRAL ANGOLA. IN ADDITION, MANY THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES ARE REPORTEDLY FLEEING INTERIOR TOWNS FOR LUANDA.

REFUGEES: ABOVE PROBLEM COMPOUNDED BY FACT THAT UP TO
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200,000 REFUGEES HAVE REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO NORTHERN ANGOLA (BAKONGO AND FNLA TERRITORY) FROM ZAIRE. UNHCR, UNDP AND ICRC ARE ALL STUDYING PROBLEM BUT HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM. WE CONTRIBUTED DOLS. 200,000 TO FIRST ICRC APPEAL TWO WEEKS AGO.

BOTH PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ANGOLA'S

TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAVE NOW REQUESTED UN FOOD
ASSISTANCE. INGERSOLL

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